

Two large recent catalogs have both clearly demonstrated the great difficulties of this cooperative approach. But this does not mean that improvement cannot be made in the present system. Widespread circulation of the manuscript before publication might help considerably, but it would involve a delay of not less than six months.

Space will not permit me to take up in detail the statements made by Dr. La Rivers, although I find myself in disagreement with most of his generalizations. I would like to ask, however, because of a life-long interest in card-indexing, for the name of any specialist who has a card catalog that is up to date and in such a form that it can be directly transcribed into a supplement manuscript. I believe that this is quite possible, but I have never found anyone who had one, and my own file of nearly 500,000 cards on Staphylinidae could not be used in this manner.

I cannot agree that we will gain any advantage by trying other solutions to this problem if they are all ones which have known faults that more than offset their advantages. I believe that Dr. La Rivers should not be too concerned over the fact that one taxonomist is willing to spend part of his time at a job that gives some help to many others, instead of sticking to the study of an obscure group in which few are interested. His own willingness to make use of catalogs is proof that the compiler's time was not wasted.

APHODIUS VESTIARIUS HORN, A SYNONYM OF APHODIUS CUNICULUS CHEVROLAT

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Examination of specimens of *Aphodius vestiarius* Horn and *A. cuniculus* Chevrolat in the collections of the United States National Museum lead to the conclusion that these two species are identical and that *vestiarius* must be placed in synonymy. Dr. George Horn described *vestiarius* from near St. Augustine, Florida in 1870 (Trans. Am. Ent. Soc., vol. III, p. 121); Chevrolat described *cuniculus* from Cuba in 1864 (Ann. Soc. Ent. France, s.4, vol. 4, p. 411). The species is widely distributed in the West Indies and was mentioned from 19 of these islands by Chapin in 1940. Bates in *Biologia Centrali-Americana* lists Mexico, Guatemala, and Nicaragua also.

Aphodius cuniculus has been seen from the following localities in the United States: Texas: Harrisburg, Galveston, Macdona, Victoria,

Devil's River, and Brownsville; Alabama: Escambia Co.; Florida: Haw Creek, Indian River, Pensacola, Capron, Centreville, Lake Harney, Sarasota, Lake Worth, and Miami; Georgia: Lyons, Okefenokee Swamp, and Savannah; and South Carolina: Beaufort, Tillman, Yemassee, and Seabrooks Island.

THE EGG-BALL OF DELTOCHILUM GIBBOSUM (Fab.)

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Several years ago while using rotting chicken feathers as bait for *Trox* in the mountains of South Carolina, the writer was surprised and pleased to take several specimens of *Deltochilum gibbosum* along with the various *Trox* and other insects. Some time later the same bait, which had been placed beside a log near the trail, was visited again and in searching under the leaves an egg-ball of *Deltochilum* was found tucked in close under the log. The ball was the size and shape of a Narcissus bulb and, in fact, had exactly the same appearance. It measured 1½ inches in diameter and two inches down through the neck. The ball contained a pupa of the beetle and closely packed fine downlike feathers. The outside was covered with soil and dead leaves, the leaves being so closely and tightly wrapped as to give it the appearance of a plant bulb. The following season a second pear-shaped egg-ball which contained a large yellowish egg in the smaller end was found near another pile of feathers. It had the center composed of a grayish mass of closely firmly packed downlike feathers, surrounded by a layer of claylike soil, and an outside covering of pieces of dead leaves.

Deltochilum gibbosum has been collected in Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. In South Carolina it occurs throughout the State, has been collected from May 5 to August 30, and has been taken at various dead animals, dog hair, and human excrement as well as chicken feathers. It was observed rolling a large ball of excrement in the same manner as by *Canthon* of various species.

The above brief note is presented with the hope that someone in the Southern States where *Deltochilum gibbosum* is found will work out the life history of this our largest "tumble-bug." It is hoped especially that its larva will be obtained and preserved. The United States National Museum would like to obtain such larvae since the immature stages of *Deltochilum* are unknown.